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TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [PHUM](#) [PGOV](#) [ID](#)
SUBJECT: EMBASSY POSTPONES JULY JCET WITH KOPASSUS

REF: JAKARTA 1075

Classified By: CDA John A. Heffern, for reasons 1.4 (b,d).

11. (C) Embassy Country Team discussed possible responses to reports that Tommy Suharto was feted at the 55th anniversary celebration of the Indonesian Army Special Forces (KOPASSUS) on DATE. Unless otherwise directed, Embassy intends to postpone indefinitely the Joint Combined Exercise Training (JCET) scheduled for July 23-August 10. Charge will inform Indonesian Minister of Defense Juwono Sudarsono and Presidential National Security Adviser Dino Djalal that this decision is in direct response to the incident with Tommy Suharto. Embassy defense officials intend to continue the current dialogue with KOPASSUS, but will need to review KOPASSUS' record on human rights and democracy before further exploratory mil-mil activities can resume.

12. (U) Tommy Suharto, the disgraced son of former Indonesian President Suharto, was reportedly invited to participate in the celebration of KOPASSUS' 55th anniversary, which included a shooting contest in which Suharto participated. Suharto was recently released from prison after serving five years of a 15-year sentence for ordering the contract killing of an Indonesian judge who had convicted him of fraud. KOPASSUS leaders reportedly welcomed Suharto warmly and officers interviewed by journalists after the event casually dismissed Suharto's checkered past as unimportant. The incident was first reported by Australian journalist Mark Forbes in the Sydney Morning Herald on April 25. Embassy defense officials have confirmed the story with credible sources.

13. (C) Embassy has in recent months engaged on a limited, exploratory basis with KOPASSUS in an effort to better ascertain the extent of progress toward democratic reform and professionalization (reftel). The postponed JCET was to be the fourth step in a series of incremental exchanges since January 2007. We continue to believe that dialogue and engagement are essential to our effort to move KOPASSUS toward democratic reform and professionalization. In order to make our concerns known and press this agenda, we will continue our current dialogue with these forces. Any further steps toward possible normalization of relations, however, will require further review at post and with Washington. Cooperation with the Special Forces of the Indonesian Air Force and Navy, which have already been normalized, will not be affected by our decision on KOPASSUS.

HEFFERN